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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/828,491	04/04/2001	Scott S. Snibbe	YCMIP001	6835
21912	7590	03/30/2006	EXAMINER	
VAN PELT, YI & JAMES LLP 10050 N. FOOTHILL BLVD #200 CUPERTINO, CA 95014			ZHOU, TING	
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2173

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/828,491	Applicant(s) SNIBBE ET AL.	
	Examiner Ting Zhou	Art Unit 2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 21, 23-26 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 21, 23-26 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 17 January 2006 have been received and entered. Claims 1-18, 21, 23-26 and 28 as amended are pending in the application.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 7-17, 21, 23-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson et al. U.S. Patent 6,507,865 (hereinafter "Hanson"), Fielding et al. in the article titled "*Collaborative Work: The Apache HTTP Server Project*" (hereinafter "*Fielding*") and Lynch in the article titled "*AIM (A Little) Higher*" (hereinafter "*Lynch*").

Referring to claims 1, 23 and 28, Hanson teaches a method, system and computer program product comprising providing a user interface to a digital device network (an interface in the electronic medium fostering content collaboration among participants connected to a network) (Hanson: column 2, lines 60-62 and column 3, lines 15-17), the interface configured to enable a user to contribute collaboratively online with other users in a collaborative community to modify a digital media artifact wherein a plurality of derivative digital media artifacts are created by integrating one or more user contributions with the digital media artifact (users can contribute and collaborate with other users to modify content, i.e. by manipulating, or creating

Art Unit: 2173

and updating dynamic content such as images, streaming media, lists, calendars, slide presentations, etc.; derivative digital media artifacts are created by tracking additions, changes and updates by participants to the message) (Hanson: column 2, lines 60 - column 3, line 65, column 7, lines 30-37 and column 14, lines 42 - column 15, line 46), submitting collaborative user contributions to the online digital media artifact received prior to the deadline for production by a third party into a final media product (for example, submitting a message to an online group greeting card prior to the send date) (Hanson: column 15, lines 15-17 and further shown in Figure 11), and tracking a genealogy of the digital media artifact including a history of the digital media artifact and collaborative user contributions (tracking the comments and changes made by other participants to the message by maintaining a record of the history of changes that have been made to any dynamic content region) (Hanson: column 7, lines 30-37 and column 13, lines 38-43). This is further shown in the example of an online group collaboration greeting card system recited in column 14, lines 43 - column 15, line 46 and Figures 9-13. However, Hanson fail to explicitly teach the derivative digital media artifacts are competing derivative digital media artifacts, determining a plurality of popularities of the plurality of derivative digital media artifacts derived from the digital media artifact and submitting a selected popular derivative digital media artifact received prior to the deadline for production. Fielding teaches a method that develops products via user contributions (Fielding: page 88, first paragraph and page 89, section entitled *Collaboration Methods and Tools*) similar to that of Hanson. In addition, Fielding further teaches competing derivative media artifacts (each proposed version of the file being changed, i.e. the different patches, are being voted on with only the approved patches being released; therefore, the patches are competing with one another) (Fielding: page 89),

determining a plurality of popularities of the plurality of derivative digital media artifacts derived from the digital media artifact and submitting a selected popular derivative digital media artifact received prior to the deadline for production (users would vote during a voting period for each proposed versions of the file being changed, and a selected popular artifact would be submitted, i.e. the approved versions of the changes would be applied to the file) (Fielding: bottom of page 88 and page 89, section titled *Change Control*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hanson and Fielding before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the development of media content via users collaborating and making changes to the media content of Hanson to include the ability to vote on competing proposed changes and submitting the most popular changes among the competing changes for production taught by Fielding. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide a shared communication space that allows coordination and collaboration via decisions made by consensus, thereby providing intelligent data gathering, storage and retrieval, and guaranteeing that the final product will be satisfactory and meets user's needs and requirements. However, Hanson and Fielding fail to explicitly teach creating a visual indicator to identify the user to other users in the collaborative community wherein the visual indicator protects the privacy of the user. Lynch teaches a graphical user interface that allows users to communicate with other users in a community (as shown by the AOL instant messenger chat window shown in the figure on page 2 of the attached article) similar to that of Hanson and Fielding. In addition, Lynch further teaches creating a visual indicator to identify the user to other users in the collaborative community wherein the visual indicator protects the privacy of the user (users can be identified, or represented by a buddy icon, which could be an image or graphic; in other

Art Unit: 2173

words, the graphic can be a cartoon character for example, and does not need to be a picture of the user, thus protecting the user's identity or privacy) (as recited at the bottom of page 1 and shown by the buddy icon shown in the chat window of the figure displayed on page 2 of the attached article). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hanson, Fielding and Lynch before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface that facilitates group collaboration of a digital media content of Hanson and Fielding, to include the identification of each user with a buddy icon of Lynch. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to allow users to be able to visually identify other participants in an online community in a fast and easy manner.

Referring to claim 2, Hanson, as modified, teach the third party being part of the collaborative community that participated in the creation of the digital media artifact (the electronic medium can provide a background or "canvas" to which participants can add content) (Hanson: column 14, lines 43-51).

Referring to claim 3, Hanson, as modified, teach the third party not being part of the collaborative community that participated in the creation of the digital media artifact (instead of providing a canvas for use by the participants, the electronic medium can be updated instead by a variety of external sources) (Hanson: column 5, lines 9-14).

Referring to claim 4, Hanson et al., as modified, teach the popularity is determined by explicitly or implicit voting by community members (users would vote during a voting period for each proposed versions of the file being changed, and a selected popular artifact would be submitted, i.e. the approved versions of the changed would be applied to the file) (Fielding: bottom of page 88 and page 89, section titled *Change Control*)

Referring to claim 7, Hanson, as modified, teach the media product being one or more of an animation, television program, song, motion picture or commercial (streaming media such as television programs or commercials) (Hanson: column 3, lines 23-26 and column 5, lines 9-11).

Referring to claim 8, Hanson, as modified, teach the media product being a special edition product (Hanson: column 3, lines 23-26 and column 5, lines 9-11).

Referring to claim 9, Hanson, as modified, teach the user contributions including one or more of plots, characters, settings, situations, sound clips, drawings, artwork and video clip (users can input content such as images and audio clips) (Hanson: column 14, lines 43-51).

Referring to claim 10, Hanson, as modified, teach the user contributions based on materials from a fixed-asset database (selections from predetermined or predefined data can be made by the user) (Hanson: column 15, lines 1-17).

Referring to claim 11, Hanson, as modified, teach the user contributions including contributions to a working material asset database available to other members of the community (Hanson: column 13, lines 38-43).

Referring to claim 12, Hanson, as modified, teach tracking the user contributions to a collaborative digital media artifact based on a genealogy algorithm (tracking the comments and changes made by other participants to the message by maintaining a record of the history of changes that have been made to any dynamic content region) (column 13, line 38-44).

Referring to claim 13, Hanson, as modified, teach displaying the modification history and percentage of contribution from multiple parties to the collaborative digital media artifact (displaying and tracking the history of modifications and contributions from users) (Hanson: column 7, lines 30-37, column 13, lines 38-43 and further shown in Figures 9 and 17).

Referring to claim 14, Hanson, as modified, teach the users in the online collaborative community providing identity information in a user profile viewable by other members of the community (users are represented by their network addresses and names and their names can be viewed with their contributions by the members of the community) (Hanson: column 3, lines 34-48, column 7, lines 31-37 and further shown by reference character “1140” in Figure 16).

Referring to claim 15, Hanson, as modified, teach tracking user activity in the online collaborative community (tracking the comments and changes made by other participants to the message) (Hanson: column 7, lines 30-37 and column 13, lines 38-43).

Referring to claim 16, Hanson, as modified, teach correlating user activity with user profile data to determine demographic preferences (the database stores information that is specific to the participant, or user profile data, including demographic data, participant preference information, etc.) (Hanson: column 7, lines 18-27).

Referring to claim 17, Hanson, as modified, teach an interface to a digital device network (Hanson: column 3, lines 10-19), the interface configured to enable a user to view a plurality of digital media artifacts collaboratively created by members of the online community, and to select from among the plurality of artifacts, one or more artifacts to modify (allows the users to view greeting cards created by members of the online community and modify them to add their comments and signatures) (Hanson: column 14, lines 43-51, column 15, lines 33-56 and further shown in Figure 9).

Referring to claim 21, Hanson et al., as modified, teach combining a plurality of popular derivative digital media artifacts to create the selected popular derivative digital media artifact

(combining a plurality of popular derivative artifacts, i.e. combining a list of user approved patches and apply them to the file) (Fielding et al.: page 89, section entitled *Change Control*).

Referring to claim 24, Hanson, as modified, teach the network of digital devices comprising one or more clients running front-end software, the software providing a user interface to the digital computer network, the interface configured to enable a user to manipulate digital collage elements to contribute collaboratively online with other users to create a digital media artifact, one or more servers running back-end software, the software configured to interface with the front-end software to coordinate the contributions of a plurality of users, one or more databases configured for storage of digital media and associated information, and application program interfaces (APIs) and middleware (server-side software components) configured to communicate between the one or more clients, servers and databases (Hanson: column 2, lines 60 - column 3, line 65, column 6, lines 23-67, column 26, lines 53-67 and column 27, lines 1-18). This is further shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Referring to claim 25, Hanson, as modified, teach the digital device network comprising one or more of personal computers, interactive television devices, cable boxes and cable modems (Hanson: column 6, lines 34-47).

Referring to claim 26, Hanson, as modified, teach the digital device network further comprising one or more of wireless devices, cellular telephones and personal digital assistants (Hanson: column 6, lines 34-47).

3. Claims 5-6 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson et al. U.S. Patent 6,507,865 (hereinafter "Hanson"), Fielding et al. in the article titled

Art Unit: 2173

*“Collaborative Work: The Apache HTTP Server Project”* (hereinafter *“Fielding”*) and Lynch in the article titled *“AIM (A Little) Higher”* (hereinafter *“Lynch”*), and Knight U.S. Patent 6,515,681.

Referring to claim 5, Hanson, Fielding and Lynch teach all of the limitations as applied to claim 1 above. Specifically, Hanson, Fielding and Lynch teach tracking the contributions of users in the collaborative community (tracking the comments and changes made by other participants to the message) (Hanson: column 7, lines 30-37 and column 13, lines 38-43) and determining the popularity of user contributions (users would vote during a voting period for each proposed versions of the file being changed, and a selected popular artifact would be submitted, i.e. the approved versions of the changed would be applied to the file) (Fielding: bottom of page 88 and page 89, section titled *Change Control*). However, Hanson, Fielding and Lynch fail to explicitly teach determining the popularity of user contributions by tracking, viewing and/or use of the contributions by other users in the collaborative community. Knight teaches an online user collaboration method (Knight: column 4, lines 62-67) similar to that of Hanson, Fielding and Lynch. In addition, Knight further teaches a tracking system that tracks the frequency of information usage to determine popularity (Knight: column 6, lines 22-30 and lines 59-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hanson, Fielding, Lynch and Knight before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the user collaboration method of Hanson, Fielding and Lynch to include the use of a tracking system to determine the popularity of user contributions, taught by Knight. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide intelligent data analysis,

gathering, storage, filtering and retrieval that takes into consideration the user's interests and requirements.

Referring to claim 6, Hanson, as modified, teach determining the popularity of a user contribution to the collaborative media artifact by tracking the assignment of a quality rating (display of a ranking system identifying the most popular information) (Knight: column 18, lines 44-51).

Referring to claim 18, Hanson, as modified, teach the use of statistical sampling through picking a subset of information that matches the user's query request to display, namely, the most popular and relevant information (Knight: column 6, lines 15-18 and column 16, lines 12-17). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hanson et al. and Knight before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the online collaboration interface taught by Hanson et al. to include the statistical sampling of Knight.

#### *Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18, 21, 23-26 and 28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

Art Unit: 2173

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ



**KIEU D. VU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**